

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****AUG 16 2005**In re application of: Attili *et al*

Appl. No.: 09/824,844

Art Unit: 2153

Filed: April 2, 2001

Examiner: Strange, Aaron N

For: Tracing Layer2 Route in Networks Based on  
Broadcast Medium

Atty. Docket: CSCO-007/3484

**Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.131**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Narendra R. Thappeta, declare as follows:

1. I am the attorney of record in the above-identified patent application.
2. On a day prior to January 24, 2001, I was requested to work with the inventors of the present patent application to prepare and file a US patent application. I initiated contact with Ms. Sailaja Attili, one of the named inventors before January 24, 2001, noting that I would be working with her to prepare and file a patent application.
3. On February 1, 2001, I reviewed background material and met with Ms. Sailaja Attili (first named inventor) at Cisco premises as noted in Exhibit E, which is a redacted portion of the invoice I submitted to Cisco Systems, Inc. after filing of the subject patent application.
4. Between March 6, 2001 and March 12 2001, I considered the drafting strategy, and drafted the patent application including claims in method, apparatus, means for and computer program product forms, as evidenced by the corresponding entry of Exhibit E.

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5. Between February 1, 2001 and March 6, 2001, I was the only patent attorney in my business who had to draft the subject patent application. In view of my other work load I had then, I did not draft the subject application sooner. In addition, I was in the process of relocating my office from Newark, California to Bangalore, India. The added burden of relocation did not permit me to work sooner on the subject patent application.

6. On March 12, 2001, I sent a first draft of the application to Ms. Sailaja Attili for review, as evidenced by the time line of Exhibit E as well as the date of Exhibit B submitted in the amendment dated September 14 2004.

7. On March 22, 2001, I received feedback from the inventor with approval to file with revisions, as evidenced by the corresponding entry of Exhibit E. Between March 12, 2001 and March 22, 2001, it is believed that the inventors were reviewing the draft application.

8. On March 22, 2001, I sent the revised application to Mr. Jason Kipnis, as evidenced by the corresponding entry of Exhibit E. Mr. Kipnis is an attorney for the assignee (Cisco Systems, Inc.), who reviewed the subject application prior to filing.

9. On March 28, 2001, I received feedback from Mr. Jason Kipnis, as evidenced by the corresponding entry of Exhibit E. Between March 22, 2001 and March 28, 2001, it is believed Mr. Kipnis was reviewing the draft application.

10. Between March 28, 2001 and April 2, 2005, I revised the application, prepared assignment and declaration documents for signature by the inventors, secured signatures and filed the application with the USPTO, as evidenced by the corresponding entry of Exhibit E.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the

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application or any patent issued thereon.

*Naren Thappeta*

August 3, 2005

(Date)

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